

CPYRGHT

Drugs for Castro Carry Marks to Identify Resale

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NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Some of the drugs sent to Fidel Castro as ransom for Cuban prisoners carry a special marking.

They were labeled this way as a means of learning whether Premier Castro sells or barter them abroad rather than using them in Cuba, a pharmaceutical manufacturer says.

Drugs accounted for about half of the \$53 million in goods which the Cuban head made the price for releasing 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners at Christmas time.

Makers of the drugs, surgical instruments and baby foods contributed their products to make up the ransom figure. They were convinced Cuba was in desperate need of such items, with drugs in short supply there, and health problems becoming very serious.

But some items requested by Premier Castro made them wonder whether the Cuban government really intended to use them all in Cuba, or exchange or sell them for other products his economy—or his military establishment—needs, this informant said.

So, as a trace, one pharmaceutical manufacturer put a special mark on the packages of drugs he supplied. The drugs were not altered in any way, but the packages sent to Cuba bear a small "brand" different from the customary legends and markings on them.

"We'll be able to tell if they show up in Russia or South America, or even eventually in the United States," said this source, who asked not to be identified.

Drugs are a big seller in black markets, he explained.